

# WELL-KNOWN MEN OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE

They Are the Ten Lieutenants in Charge of the Ten Precincts Into Which the City Is Divided, and Each Is a Model Officer.

EVERY loyal Washingtonian takes pride in the well-ordered condition of the Capital City, and knows to whom the credit for it in great measure belongs. If Washington is one of the quietest cities in the United States, it must be remembered it has one of the best organized and most efficient police forces in the country. The history of the Metropolitan police of the District of Columbia has been an eventful one from the very day of its organization, September 11, 1861, to the present time.

No better idea can be had of the department's present efficiency and the different duties and experiences of the men who compose it than by a survey of Washington's ten police precincts.

All the territory bounded by B Street south, K Street north, Seventh Street east, and the White House and Fifteenth and a-half Street west, is included within the First police precinct. While it has the smallest population and area of any of the police subdivisions, within its limits are concentrated the theaters, principal business houses and saloons. This precinct is at present under command of Lieut. Tazewell B. Amiss, one of the best-known officers on the force, and a native of Culpeper county, Va., where he was born August 29, 1841. He attended the District schools during his early boyhood, but at the age of twelve began to learn shoemaking with his father, who was a manufacturer in that line. This pursuit proved distasteful, and two years later he went West. For a time he worked on a farm in Saline county, Missouri, for A. J. Fisher. Later he was employed in planting orange fences for Mr. Jamieson, the holder of the patent rights for that fence in the State.

#### Returned to Virginia.

It was not until the latter part of 1857 that Lieutenant Amiss returned to his home in Virginia, where he remained until he secured an interest in a drove of horses with which he traveled South as far as Greensborough, Ala. There he entered the employ of Mr. Thornburg, the proprietor of the American Corn and Cob Mill. Later he worked in Columbus, Ga., but in the winter of 1860 he went to Louisville, Ky., in which city and the neighboring town of New Albany, Ind., he remained until the beginning of the civil war.

On March 11, 1861, he enlisted for mounted service in the regular army and was sent to Carlisle, where he was assigned to Company F, Fourth United States Artillery. The battery was sent to Hainsville, Winchester, Cedar Mountain, Antietam, South Mountain, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, and participated in many other smaller engagements, in which the Army of Northern Virginia took part, under Generals Patterson, Banks, Slocum and Thomas. Toward the close of the war he was wounded and promoted to the grade of corporal. He received his discharge March 11, 1864, at Stevenson, Ala.

#### His Later Life.

He returned to Washington after the war and was employed by the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company until 1868, when he was appointed to the Capitol police, with which he remained about two years. On March 3, 1870, he was appointed to the Metropolitan police. In 1882 he distinguished himself for his daring conduct in capturing a gang of burglars, among whom were Wood and Fitzsimmons. He was made a sergeant afterward and promoted to a lieutenancy in the fall of 1885. In 1887 he and another policeman arrested two notorious thieves who were trying to plunder the house of the Peruvian minister, for which he was complimented in general orders.

Lieutenant Amiss married Miss Mary Wheeler, of Fredericksburg, Va., in 1865. They have five children. The lieutenant was formerly a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, but now devotes his war time memories to his comrades of the Union Veteran Legion. He is also an active member of the Masonic order.

As a policeman Lieutenant Amiss has been very successful. His station is one of the busiest in the department, and he has become well known to a large number of Washington people. His earlier successes gave him a reputation as a brave and faithful officer, and the well-disciplined force he has under his command enables him to preserve order even in the wickedest parts of the District.

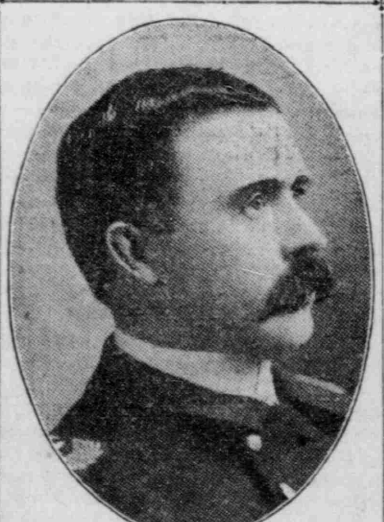
#### The Second Precinct.

The Second police precinct runs from K to R Street north and from First Street east to Fifteenth Street west, and ranks second in population. It is largely composed of private residences and foreign legations. Within this precinct are Iowa and Thomas Circles, and here exists the locality formerly known as "Hell's Bottom," one of the most disorderly places in the District in the early days. Lieutenant Michael Byrne, a gallant officer, is in charge.

Lieutenant Byrne's immediate predecessor will be remembered as Lieutenant DeWitt H. Teeple, a native of Plymouth, Mich. Lieutenant Teeple was among the very first to enlist in the civil war, becoming a member of Troop A, First Michigan Cavalry. He was present at the battle of Winchester, after which the regiment was sent on a raid through Virginia as far as Rappahannock under General Ferry. Private Teeple served as mounted orderly to Generals Banks, King, and Augur. He was stricken with typhoid fever due to exposure and was discharged September 23, 1864. He joined the Washington police November 4, 1864, and is now connected with the National Bureau of Identification.

Lieutenant Byrne was born in Ireland in November, 1848, and when a lad of eight came to America with his parents.

When twenty years old he enlisted in the Regular Army, in Battery B, Fourth Artillery. Soon after enlistment he was made first sergeant, and after serving several years was honorably discharged. A few months later he sought appointment on the Washington police



LIEUTENANT DALEY,  
Ninth Precinct.

force. His appointment was made October 1, 1871, and he was assigned to the Sixth precinct. Later Private Byrne was transferred to the First precinct, and was placed on the White House beat, in the Administration of President Hayes. He did not take kindly to the picturesque duty of standing like a statue and wearing white gloves, and at his own request was placed back on street work after a few months. He was, however, assigned to the First precinct a second time in the first Administration of President Cleveland.

Private Byrne was made sergeant in 1888, and saw three years of service in the First and Sixth precincts in that capacity. In this period he was actively engaged in suppressing policy. In the Sixth especially, Sergeant Byrne was the terror of the gambling element. At one time, with his men, he raided as many as three gambling lay-outs in one day, and arrested seven or eight men. In many instances cases were made against those arrested, and they were fined or sent to jail. Illicit liquor selling also received attention, and Sergeant Byrne was instrumental in breaking up nearly all the speakeasies in the Sixth precinct. Chinese gambling houses were frequently raided, sometimes as many as three on a Sunday. It was through the activity of the police of the Sixth precinct at the time that Washington escaped having a "Chinese quarter," now the bane of other cities. The Chinese gamblers came to Wash-

ington in numbers, and thought they had a rich field of operation, but Sergeant Byrne hounded them unceasingly, so that the establishment of "dope joints" and gambling rooms became too expensive for the fraternity. They gave it up, and there has never been, in the strict sense of the word, any place in Washington where the devilry of the Orient found a firm foothold.

Sergeant Byrne was promoted to the position of Lieutenant July 3, 1901, and was assigned to the command of the Second precinct. The Second precinct last year was awarded the flag for having the best kept quarters, and the best drilled men. Lieutenant Byrne and his men are making every effort to keep the trophy this year when the examinations come off.

Lieutenant Byrne has had a good deal of trouble with speakeasies in his precinct, especially since the new license law went into effect. He has, however, kept them pretty well weeded out, and his men are on the alert for new ones that may be established. Whenever caught, the keepers are severely punished, as no raiding is done until the evidence is carefully worked out against the places. Some few houses of prostitution have been broken up, and the precinct is now fairly clear of disorder. The principal crime dealt with by Lieutenant Byrne in recent months was the apprehension and conviction of the murderers, John Sinclair, William Howard, and John Joyce, all of recent occurrence.

From Rock Creek east to Fifteenth Street west, R Street north to the Potomac River south, lies the territory included in the Third precinct, commanded by Lieut. Richard B. Boyle.



LIEUT. RICHARD B. BOYLE,  
Third Precinct.

clerk in the store of Mr. Foley, a dealer in china and glassware on F Street. Afterward he bound himself as a "prentice housepainter to S. S. Parker.

#### A Rapid Promotion.

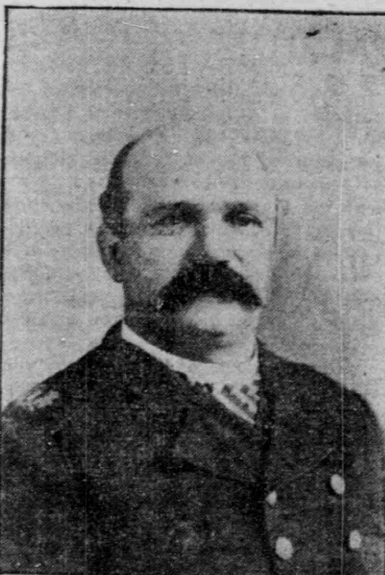
In February, 1874, he was appointed on the Metropolitan police force and placed on duty as a private in the First precinct. He was made a sergeant for meritorious conduct in 1883 and raised to a lieutenancy June 10, 1892. In 1869 Lieutenant Boyle married Miss Drummond, who died in 1875, leaving him two children. In 1876 he married Miss Rabbitt, of Rockville, Md. They have six children. Lieutenant Boyle is very domestic in his tastes. He is quite a sportsman and a noted shot, scarcely a year going by without his adding some trophy to his long list.

#### The Fourth Precinct.

The southern portion of Washington west of South Capitol Street, is known as the Fourth precinct. The steamboat wharves, Smithsonian Institution, Medical Museum, Fish Commission, and the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad yards are embraced in its limits. Much important commercial business is under the supervision of the police of the Fourth precinct and an extensive and troublesome element occupies certain portions of it. Around the Smithsonian grounds are some very handsome residences. Lieut. W. H. Mathews is in charge.

A word is due Lieutenant Mathews' predecessor, Lieut. Charles R. Vernon. He had the reputation of being one of the most efficient all-around officers on the force.

Lieut. John F. Kelly and he enlisted in the police force on the day of its or-



LIEUT. TAZEWELL B. AMISS,  
First Precinct.

Many of the handsomest residences in the city of Washington, the White House, the State War, and Navy Buildings, and the Treasury Department, with other Government institutions, are located here. "Foggy Bottom," a part of this district, where for years the rough element prevailed, has in these later days undergone a complete change.

The Third precinct is under the charge of the youngest lieutenant in the department, in point of years, in his present capacity. Lieutenant Boyle has achieved signal success in his calling, and has won the good will and esteem of his superiors and associates, as well as of the citizens with whom he is brought in contact, by the intelligent discharge of his duties. Lieutenant Boyle is a native of Washington, the day of his birth being June 23, 1850. Until 1864 he attended the District schools, after which he spent a year at Rock Hill College, Ellicott City, Md. On leaving college he returned to his home in Washington. He at first devoted himself to a mercantile career as terminated upon to S. S. Parker, best suited his tastes, and began as

ing by negroes, and the robbery of gardens and fields.

In one instance the man eluded the police for months, carrying on his depredations without interruption. This man's methods were peculiar, and upon that fact finally turned his apprehension. He used to visit one of the outlying farms



LIEUTENANT MATHEWS,  
Fourth Precinct.

In the night, clean out the chicken house entirely and never leave a clue by which he could be caught. Near the scene of theft the negro would conceal an old boiler on the afternoon of the night he intended to work. He would then camp in the vicinity, eat his lunch, and about midnight make the intended raid on the chickens. Mathews often found his fires and his sleeping places, but never the man.

After reaching the chicken house, the thief would carefully select the hens and chickens, always wringing their heads off and leaving them behind. He would then take the chickens to the woods, heat water in his old boiler and dress the fowl before starting for the city. The fire was always so deftly concealed that Mathews could never see it burning, though he watched for it several times.

Finally Mathews noticed that the thief never cut off the feet of the chickens. With this fact in view, he sent out a call to the precincts to look out for a negro selling dressed chickens with the feet on, a practice almost never followed by the farmers at the markets. Within a day or two after the call was sent out the police of the Fourth precinct saw a negro pushing a baby carriage with a load of chickens in it with the claws still on them. They caught him and took him to the station.

The night before the thief had visited two places near Mt. Pleasant, and in one place he had taken the man's coat hang-

ing by the Washington navy yard, where he worked until May, 1868, when he was appointed as station keeper for the old Fifth precinct, now the First, which was then the most important precinct in the city.

January, 1870, he was promoted to sergeant. In June, 1891, he was given charge of the Navy Yard precinct. During the succeeding nine months he was inspector of the detective corps, and the position sought the man. In October of that year he was relieved at his own request, by Inspector Hollinberger, and is again in charge of the old Fifth. No man on the police force is more conscientious than Lieutenant McCathran. He is known for his fairness in all things, and especially his sympathy for the deserving poor. The lieutenant married Miss Mary E. Kelley, of Washington, January, 1863.

#### The Sixth Precinct.

The Sixth precinct, like the First, contains numerous places of business, banking houses, the Government Printing Office, municipal buildings, courts, police headquarters and hotels. Here is located the Baltimore and Potomac depot, where President Garfield was shot, also the depot and tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. "Swampoodle" was the name given to this section in earlier days when stone battles and goat riots were of frequent occurrence.

Lieut. John F. Kelly was at one time in charge of this precinct, but at present Lieut. James A. Moore is its head. Lieutenant Kelly has the honor of being one of the oldest policemen in Washington. He was sworn in on the day when the force was organized and has risen to his present position by sheer merit. He was born in Washington November 22, 1831, and worked for a long time as a bricklayer. He enlisted as a ninety-day man in Captain Nalley's company of rifles. Lieutenant Kelly has done duty in almost every precinct and filled almost every position on the force, including those of captain and acting superintendent.

#### A First-Rate Record.

Lieut. James A. Moore was born in Maryland, near Surrattsville, where his early life was spent. Lieutenant Moore enlisted in the Fourth Cavalry in 1873, and participated in the army service on the frontier for five years. At different times he was on campaigns in the Indian Territory, New Mexico, and along the border of old Mexico.

On December 11, 1884, he joined the police force, and was assigned to the First precinct, then in command of Lieutenant Arnold. He remained on service there for several years. In 1892 he was transferred to the Third precinct, and in June of that year was made full sergeant and went back to the First precinct.

January 16, 1900, Sergeant Moore was promoted to the position of Lieutenant

Sergeant Moore then sent to the stationhouse for a rope, and the steer was finally corralled at the corner of Ohio Avenue and Thirteenth Street. Sergeant Moore racked his brain for some time for a charge to prefer against the rioter, but finally turned the animal over to his owner on the understanding that damages should be paid. Lieutenant Moore says it was the only time he was ever called upon to arrest a steer.

#### The Seventh Precinct.

Old Georgetown is known as the Seventh precinct. Its heights and quaint homes are famous for their beauty. Georgetown University, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, extensive lumber and coal yards, are within the limits of this, Lieut. John A. Swindells', precinct.

He is one of the best educated and most practical officers on the force. Cool, deliberate, and a man of tried courage, he has served the city long and faithfully in the several parts to which he has been assigned. He is a native of Maryland, where he was born on October 24, 1838. When a youth he worked in a grist mill and made a reputation for being industrious and attentive to duty. When the war broke out he enlisted in the artillery and won distinction as a soldier, rising to the grade of a commissioned officer. January 16, 1867, he went on duty as a member of the police force and soon earned for himself a record of which any officer might be proud. Three years after his appointment, Private Swindells was made acting sergeant, and September, 1872, he was made a full sergeant. In this capacity he served until May, 1883, when he was again promoted.

As lieutenant he was put in charge of the Georgetown precinct, but a short time after his promotion he was selected to fill the office of inspector in charge of the detective corps. This was shortly after the reorganization of the detective service in 1885, and under his supervision this branch of the department soon attained a high reputation for honesty and efficiency. The trying responsibilities of the position, together with an unsanitary office, impaired the lieutenant's health and February, 1892, he was relieved and put in charge of the Seventh precinct. Lieutenant Swindells married Miss Martha Howes, of Georgetown, October 2, 1884. They have seven children.

#### The Eighth Precinct.

All that extensive section north of R Street, which includes Mount Pleasant, Brightwood, Brookland, Eckington, and other suburban villages as far as the District line, is the Eighth precinct, under Lieut. W. W. Jordan. This precinct embraces the Soldiers' Home, the Catholic University of America, and other attractive institutions which enlist the attention of the visitor and inhabitant as well.

Lieutenant Jordan has as a predecessor Lieut. James W. Gessford, a Baltimorean, and at the time of his death one of the oldest and most experienced officers on the force. He was born February 22, 1835, and came to Washington in 1852. At the time of reorganization of the Metropolitan police, Lieutenant Gessford received his appointment. He was promoted to sergeant November 11, 1885, and to his lieutenancy July 23, 1896. He acted in almost all the precincts of the city, and also filled the important position of night inspector. Lieutenant Gessford was very popular socially, and a member of several societies and orders. His son, H. L. Gessford, is now a captain in the District police, and does desk work at Police Headquarters.

#### An Efficient Officer.

Lieut. W. W. Jordan was born on a farm near Burlington, Iowa, March 16, 1853. In childhood he moved with his parents to a farm near Brownstown, Jackson county, Ind., where his boyhood was spent in farm work and in attendance upon the district school.

When twenty years old Jordan entered the regular army, and later re-enlisted twice. His first service was in the infantry, and at his second re-enlistment he was assigned to the Third Light Battery, stationed at the Washington Barracks. As a soldier Jordan saw service on the Big Horn and Yellowstone expeditions in 1876. He was in the battle of Butte, September 9, 1876.

While stationed at the Washington Barracks he took the examination for appointment on the police force. He then applied for discharge from the military service. He was appointed policeman July 1, 1885, and assigned to the Sixth precinct, then in command of Lieut. John F. Kelly, the stationhouse being at the corner of First and F Streets northwest. He was transferred to the First precinct in October, 1892. He was appointed sergeant in September, 1893, and went back to No. 6. Later he served for short periods in the Second and Third precincts. In August, 1900, Jordan was promoted to acting sergeant and night inspector. July 1, 1901, he was made full lieutenant and placed in command of the Eighth precinct.

Speaking of his service Lieutenant Jordan said he took a hand in everything that came along. He had much to do in clearing the Sixth precinct of policy places, speakeasies, and gambling houses. Housebreakers he arrested in great numbers and was engaged on many of the important cases in his precinct. The principal crime with which Lieutenant Jordan has been connected in the Eighth precinct was the assault of Ernest Harrison upon Towne at the Trumbull Street pumping station.

#### The Ninth Precinct.

The Ninth precinct, commanded by Lieut. John C. Daley, embraces that part of the city and District bounded by East Capitol Street, First Street

(Continued on Fourth Page.)



LIEUT. JOHN A. SWINDELLS,  
Seventh Precinct.



LIEUT. JOHN KENNEY,  
Tenth Precinct.

#### Most Populous of All.

The Fifth precinct, the most populous in the city, is in charge of Lieut. F. F. McCathran. It extends west to South Capitol Street, north to East Capitol Street, and includes the villages of Hillside, Anacostia, and Congress Heights. The navy yard and great gun works are situated within its limits. It is usually a quiet section, the people and police being in accord on all matters affecting its interests.

Lieut. Frank F. McCathran is a quiet, unassuming man, sure of every move he makes in the suppression of crime. He was born in Southeast Washington, February, 1841. During his boyhood days he attended the public schools, and when quite a young man went to work in his father's blacksmith shop. Having mastered this trade, he readily found em-

and placed in command of the Sixth precinct.

Lieutenant Moore was sergeant in the First precinct at the time of the raids on policy players and the breaking up of the gambling dens. He led in person most of the raids, and his pursuit of the policy people was unrelenting until the practice was broken up.

Sergeant Moore had a unique experience several years ago, which, for a time, threatened to mar his record as a successful policeman. One fine morning an energetic steer broke through the bars at the "Drover's Rest" and began an excursion about the city on his own account. He went bellowing along Twelfth Street out toward the Avenue. One of the keepers of the "Rest" and several street urchins gave chase, and the steer, possibly a little frightened, ran into the Raleigh Hotel barroom. Those taking their morning drama came quickly to the conclusion they had "got 'em" and ran into a safer part of the house. The steer stirred things up in the barroom and passed on into the dining-room. It was here that the ancient scene of the "bull in the china shop" was enacted.

The steer now pursued by Sergeant Moore overturned tables, broke dishes, demoralized the waiters, and spoiled the breakfasts of several guests. He dashed out of the front door, with Sergeant Moore in hot pursuit. The steer ran across the Avenue, bolted into a saloon on the south side, scared everybody out of their wits, and was headed off in the dining-room by the sergeant. The latter had nothing but his bare hands to deal with the infuriated bovine, and when he was once more out of doors broke away from the sergeant.